Signing the CTBT

349. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the press news item captioned "Govt.'s wisdom of agreeing to sign CTBT questioned" as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 6.2.99.

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government on the views expressed in the news-item;

(c) whether the Government proposes to take any final decision on signing CTBT in view of economic sanctions imposed by US administration;

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Government's position on the CTBT is determined purely by considerations of national interest. On December 15, 1998, Prime Minister had stated that "India is now engaged in discussions with key interlocutors on a range of issues, including the CTBT. We are prepared to bring these discussions to a successful conclusion, so that the entry into force of the CTBT is not delayed beyond September 1999. We expect that other countries as indicated in Article XIV of the CTBT, will adhere to the Treaty without conditions. That remains our position. For the successful conclusion of the talks, creation of a positive environment by our interlocutors is a necessary ingredient". The most recent discussions with the US and other interlocutors were conducted on this basis.

Illegal Immigration from Myanmar, Bangladesh and China

350. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since negotiated the question of illegal immigration of people from Myanmar, Bangladesh, China etc.; and

(b) if so, the details and outcome, if any, till date?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Government takes up the question of illegal immigration, whenever necessary, with the countries concerned. In this regard Government have often conveyed concern about the seriousness and the magnitude of the problem of infiltration and illegal migration to the Government of Bangladesh. At the Home Secretaries' talks in Dhaka on 20-22 November, 1998 both sides agreed to adhere to specific procedures in this connection. The Government of Bangladesh has conveyed the assurance that measures will be taken to strengthen security at the border to prevent illegal border crossing.

China's Allegation regarding Grabbing of Land

351. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether, while criticising the statement made by the Union Urban Affairs Minister describing Taiwan as an independent country, China has recently alleged that India has grabbed 90,000 sq. km. of Chinese territory; and

(b) if so, what is the Government's reaction with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) China's official news agency, Xinhua, in a signed commentary on January 1, 1999 had wrongly alleged that India had taken possession of "about 90,000 sq. kms. of Chinese territory".

(b) Our consistent and well knows position is that the part of Indian territory under illegal occupation by China in the State of Jammu & Kashmir has an area of approximately 38,000 sq. kms. In addition, under the so-called Sino-Pakistan 'Boundary Agreement' of 1963, Pakistan

illegally ceded 5,180 sq. kms. of Indian territory in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir to China.

India and China are committed to working towards a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement of the boundary question. Both countries are discussing the boundary question in the framework of the India-China Joint Working Group and India-China Expert Group. The Agreements on Maintenance of Border Peace and Tranquillity, signed in 1993 and on Confidence Building Measures in the Military Field Along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas, signed in November, 1996, contribute to maintenance of peace and tranquillity in the border areas.

पाकिस्तानी जेलों में भारतीय सैनिक

352. **श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र:** क्या **विदेश** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि भारत के 54 सैनिक अभी भी पाकिस्तानी जेलों में युद्धबंदी के रूप में यातनाएं सह रहे हैं; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो सरकार द्वारा उन्हें छुड़वाने के लिए कूटनीतिक और राजनीतिक स्तर पर क्या कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं?

विदेश मंत्री (श्री जसवन्त सिंह): (क) और (ख) उपलब्ध जानकारी के अनुसार यह विश्वास किया जाता है कि 54 लापता भारतीय रक्षा कार्मिक पाकिस्तान की अभिरक्षा में हैं। पाकिस्तान यह कहता आया है कि उसकी अभिरक्षा में ऐसा कोई भी रक्षा कार्मिक नहीं है।

इस मामले को पाकिस्तान के साथ समय-समय पर विभिन्न स्तरों पर, जिसमें प्रधान मंत्री का स्तर भी शामिल है। उठाया गया है अपनी 20-21 फरवरी, 1999 की पाकिस्तान यात्रा के दौरान प्रधान मंत्री ने इस मामले को पाकिस्तान के प्रधान मंत्री के साथ उठाया था और यह निर्णय हुआ था कि दोनों पक्ष लापता युद्ध बन्दियों के मामले सहित सभी मानवीय मुद्दों की जांच के लिए मंत्रालय स्तर पर एक दो सदस्यीय समिति का गठन करेंगे।

श्रीलंका के सैनिकों को प्रशिक्षण

353. **डा० महेश चन्द्र शर्मा:** क्या **विदेश** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या अमरीका के विशेष सुरक्षा बल श्रीलंका के सैनिकों को प्रशिक्षण दे रहे हैं;

(ख) इस प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम के संबंध में सरकार की क्या जानकारी है और क्या मत है; और

(ग) क्या इस बात का हिन्द महासागर में अमरीकी सैनिक उपस्थिति से कोई संबंध है?

विदेश मंत्री (श्री जसवन्त सिंह): (क) सरकार का ध्यान इन खबरों की ओर गया है कि अमरीका श्रीलंका की सशस्त्र सेनाओं को प्रशिक्षण दे रहा है। इन खबरों के अनुसार, यह प्रशिक्षण चिकित्सा सेवाओं, जमीनी सुरंगों को नष्ट करने, विमानन, भू-नौवहन, युद्धक चिकित्सा निकासी और संचार के संबंध में है।

(ख) सरकार इस प्रकार के घटनाक्रमों की लगातार मानीटरिंग करती है क्योंकि इसका भारत की सुरक्षा और सामरिक हितों पर प्रभाव पड़ सकता है।

(ग) यह प्रशिक्षण दोनों देशों के रक्षा संस्थापनों के बीच चल रहे सहयोग कार्यक्रम का एक हिस्सा माना जा रहा है और यह इस क्षेत्र में अमरीका तथा अन्य देशों के बीच विद्यमान सहयोग के ही समान हैं।

Pressure from US on signing of CTBT

354. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United States have been persuading India to adhere to CTBT as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 14th January, 1999;

(b) if so, the latest reaction of Government on such pressure by US;

(c) whether Government now propose to sign CTBT in some amended form; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Government is engaged in discussions with key interlocutors, including the US on a range of issues, including the CTBT. The objective of